(ii) Steep increase in staff costs consequent to Fifth Pay Commission as well as rising fuel costs.

(iii) Losses on passenger services.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. State Governments have been requested to participate in Railway projects in their respective states. Governments of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal arc already sharing cost of some of the Railway projects or have reached agreement with the Railways for financial participation in identified rail projects. Governments of Jharkhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat have expressed interest in Financial Participation in Railway Projects in their states.

Cess on students going abroad

*293. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minster of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money which has been invested by Government of India and the State Governments on computer professionals and other professionals who leave the country every year; and

(b) whether Government of India have any plans to impose cess on students going abroad, soon after completing their studies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Investments made by the Government of India and the State Governments on computer professionals and other professionals would depend on the type of professional course and institution attended by them, and duration of the course thereof. Since, no statistics of professionals going abroad is maintained centrally, an assessment of the investments by the Central and the State Governments on them can also not be made.

(b) Presently Government of India has no proposal to impose a cess on students going abroad.